

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 060958Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9698

INFO USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1145

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF LECTURERS

REF: A) STATE 130635; B) SOFIA 199; C) STATE 111175; D) SOFIA 355

1. BALL IS IN BULGARIAN COURT, AS LAST SENTENCE OF REFTEL A NOTES. IT HAS, IN FACT, BEEN THERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, SINCE PARASHKEVOV OF COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNICAL PROGRESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION RAISED CERTAIN QUESTIONS AND SAID EMBASSY WOULD BE INFORMED AFTER DECISIONS HAD BEEN REACHED (REFTEL B).

2. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY (AND DEPARTMENT, REFTEL C) HAVE BROUGHT SUBJECT UP SEVERAL TIMES IN INTERIM, THERE COMES A TIME WHEN WE SHOULD STOP CHASING AFTER BULGARIANS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN SUBJECT MATTER IS SO CLEARLY IN THEIR INTEREST, AS WITH ACADEMIC EXCHANGES.

3. IN FORTUITOUS CONVERSATION WITH CHAVDAR DAMYANOV, DEPUTY CHIEF MFA CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPT, P&C OFFICER RAISED LECTURERS EXCHANGE. DAMYANOV DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF OUR PROPOSAL, EVEN THOUGH AMBASSADOR HAD BROUGHT IT UP AT TIME OF PRESENTING PROPOSALS ON JOSE LIMON AND "PHOTOGRAPHY USA" EXHIBIT (REFTEL D). P&C OFFICER BRIEFLY DESCRIBED UCLA PROPOSAL AND PROMISED WRITTEN DETAILS.

4. IN PROMISED LETTER, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO NOTE (A) GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PROPOSAL HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE SINCE JANUARY, AND (B) USG FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30. THEREFORE, WE WOULD ASK FOR "YES-OR-NO" RESPONSE BY JUNE 20.

5. MEANWHILE, IF U. OF WASHINGTON OR ANY OTHER U.S. INSTITUTION CAN DEVELOP DIRECT, PRIVATE EXCHANGE, MORE POWER TO IT. ALTHOUGH MAY 6 MATERIALS HAVE NOT ARRIVED, OUR UNDERSTANDING OF U. OF WASHINGTON PROPOSAL IS THAT EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IS NOT NEEDED AT THIS TIME. WE HOPE THIS CONTINUES, TO AVOID MUDDYING WATERS FOR OFFICIAL (UCLA) PROGRAM, WHICH -- HAD WE TO MAKE CHOICE -- WE WOULD PREFER. IN ANY CASE, WE DOUBT VERY MUCH BULGARIANS WOULD ACCEPT TWO AMERICAN LECTURERS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY WOULD BE IN SIMILAR FIELDS.

6. WE WOULD WELCOME EXPEDITED DEPT COMMENTS.
HERZ

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